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31. (New) A fastening means as claimed in claim ~~1~~³⁰, which further includes a cover for an exposed portion of the metal tensile component.

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32. (New) A fastening means as claimed in claim ~~2~~³¹, in which the cover has a skirt providing an improved barrier to ingress of material.

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33. (New) A fastening means as claimed in claim ~~1~~³⁰, in which the fastener is provided in combination with a toggle or butterfly near an end of the metal tensile component, for engaging a blind hole in a screening frame.

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34. (New) A fastening means as claimed in claim ~~4~~³³, in which the toggle comprises a strip or plate with the tensile member passing through an offset hole, the plate narrow enough to be passed through a hole in the screening frame member when misaligned, but long enough to be held when aligned.

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35. (New) A fastening means as claimed in claim ~~4~~³³, in which the polymeric holding component is provided with a further step which fits into an enlarged hole provided in the screen frame.

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36. (New) A fastening means as claimed in claim ~~1~~³⁰, provided together with a screening panel which is provided with co-acting formations for co-acting with the fastener, in which that part of the formation of the panel for co-acting with the ledge of the fastener is located at an intermediate position in the depth of the panel, in which the co-acting formations in the panel are provided at the edges of the panel and in which the co-acting formations include also a portion for co-acting with the skirt, which formations allow the skirt to enter partially into the depth of the panel.

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37. (New) A fastener for screening panels fastening means, as claimed in claim ~~1~~³⁰, which fastener comprises a combination structure including a metal tensile component in the form of a bolt and nut and a concentric polymeric holding component

which includes a ledge for holding a panel, and a cover for an exposed portion of the metal tensile component.

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38. (New) A fastener for screening panels, as claimed in claim ~~8~~, in which the cover has a skirt which fits into a co-acting recess in the edges of the panels providing an improved barrier to ingress of material.

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39. (New) A fastener for screening panels, as claimed in claim ~~8~~, in which the fastener is provided in combination with a toggle near an end of the metal tensile component, for engaging a blind hole in a screening frame, in which the toggle comprises a strip or plate with the tensile member passing through an offset hole, the plate narrow enough to be passed through a hole in the screening frame member when misaligned, but long enough to be held when aligned.

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40. (New) A stringer for screening means, which includes a fastening means as claimed in claim ~~7~~³⁶, the stringer for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms, each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives a fastener for screening panels, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel which comprises a disc having a hole in its center, the hole providing a fastening formation and the surround of the disc a support area for the panel around the hole in which the center of the hole is immediately above the centroid of the section of the stringer.

Remarks

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, original claims 1-29 are cancelled and new claims 30-40 are added. Applicant respectfully requests examination of these new claims.

